Docket No. 290237US0PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :

Hiroshi YAGUCHI, et al. : EXAMINER: FOGARTY, CAITLIN ANNE

SERIAL NO.: 10/579,798 :

FILED: MAY 18, 2006 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1793

FOR: LOW CARBON COMPOSITE FREE-CUTTING STEEL

PRODUCT EXCELLENT IN ROUGHNESS OF FINISHED SURFACE AND METHOD FOR PRODUCTION THEREOF

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated December 10, 2008, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims begin at page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin at page 7 of this paper.